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SUMMARY OF USSR FISH INDUSTRY DATA, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from February and March 1953 Soviet newspapers and periodicals, on the 1952 and 1953 fish catches, the fish products industry, and fish breeding and conservation measures.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Fish Catch

The USSR fish industry as a whole fulfilled the 1952 fishing plan 90.3 percent.(1)

In 1952, mechanized fishing in the Karelo-Finnish SSR doubled, as compared with 1951. Republic fishermen caught 13,000 quintals more fish in 1952 than in 1951. In 1953, fishing kolkhozes of the Karelo-Finnish SSR are to catch 107,000 quintals of fish, or more than half of the total republic fish catch planned for 1953. However, as of 23 March, the republic fish industry as a whole was not fulfilling 1953 fishing plans. The fish industry of the Karelo-Finnish SSR fulfilled the February 1953 fishing plan only 67 percent.(2)

As of 20 February, fishing trawlers of the Belomorskaya State Fishing Base, Karelo-Finnish SSR, had fulfilled the February 1953 plan for herring catch 118 percent. The base as a whole pledged to fulfill the first-quarter 1953 plan 128 percent. As of 28 February, the base had caught 6,000 pud of herring above the first-quarter 1953 plan. Fishermen of the Belomorskaya State Fishing Base pledged to double the first-quarter plan and to catch 21,000 pud of Atlantic herring above plan.(3)

The 1952 fish catch of the Estonian SSR increased 31.5 percent as compared with that of 1950.(4) In 1952, fishing kolkhozes and state fishing enterprises of the Estonian SSR caught 33,400 quintals more fish than in 1951.(5) The Narva Fish Combine in the Estonian SSR fulfilled the 1952 plan 119 percent and caught 64 percent more fish than in 1950.(6)

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The following table shows percentage fulfillment of the first-quarter 1953 fishing plan by fishing enterprises of the Estonian SSR:

Oblast	10 Mar (7)	20 Mar (8)
Pyarnuskaya	40.7	42.1
Including state fishing enterprises	31.2	31.3
Tartuskaya	31.4	35.1
Including state fishing enterprises	134.7	158.7
Tallinskaya	12.7	19.6
Including state fishing enterprises	23.3	25.3

In 1952, 3.5 times as many fish were caught in the Latvian SSR as in 1940.(9) The Ventspils Fish Combine in the Latvian SSR fulfilled the fourth-quarter 1952 fishing plan 186 percent.(10)

Fishermen of Ukrazovrybtrest (Ukrainian-Azov Fish Trust) and the Osipenko Fishing Kolkhoz Union, Ukrainian SSR, pledged to fulfill the 1953 fishing plan by 7 November and to catch 25,000 pud of fish above plan by the end of the year.(11) The Zhdanov Fish Combine in the Ukrainian SSR pledged to catch 10,000 quintals of fish above the 1953 plan.(12)

During the first 2 months of 1953, the Poti Fish Plant in the Georgian SSR fulfilled more than three fourths of the 1953 fishing plan.(13)

During January and February 1953, fishing kolkhozes of Primorskiy Kray fulfilled the first-quarter 1953 plan and caught twice as many fish as during the corresponding period of 1952.(14) In 1953, 50 percent more fish, whales, crabs, and other sea animals are to be caught in the Primorskiy Basin than in 1950.(15) The Zarybino Fish Combine of Glavprimorrybprom (Main Administration of Primorskiy Kray Fish Industry) fulfilled the 1952 fishing plan only 60 percent.(16)

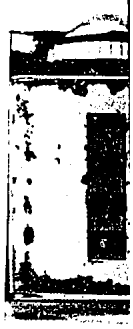
The Balkhash Fish Trust in the Kazakh SSR exceeded the 1952 fishing plan by one percent. The trust fulfilled the fourth-quarter 1952 fishing plan only 84 percent. Nearly 8,000 pud of fish were spoiled or lost at the Balkhash Fish Trust in 1952.(17)

Fish Products

In 1953, the USSR fish-canning industry is to exceed 1952 production as follows in percent: canned fish, 30; chilled and frozen fish, 51.6; smoked fish, 26.7; cured fish filets 26.3; and marinated and salted fish, 23.6.(1)

The Ventspils Fish Combine in the Latvian SSR fulfilled the fourth-quarter 1952 plan 180 percent. The combine pledged to fulfill the 1953 plan by 21 December and to produce by the end of the year 50,000 jars of canned fish above plan.(18)

As of 25 March, fish industry enterprises of Glavkamchatrybprom (Main Administration of Kamchatskaya Oblast Fish Industry) had produced more than 500,000 jars of canned fish above the plan for the first quarter 1953.(19)



As of 28 February, the fish industry of the Turkmen SSR had fulfilled the first-quarter 1953 plan 250 percent. By this date, the Krasnovodsk Fish Combine in the Turkmen SSR had produced 25,000 pud more fish products than during the first quarter 1952.(20)

Fish Breeding and Conservation

In connection with large-scale projects along the rivers of European USSR and Siberia during the Fifth Five-Year Plan, 20 new reservoirs are to be constructed, the area of which will total nearly 2,200,000 hectares, which will be [illegible] the area of all previously constructed reservoirs.

The Tsimlyanskoye Reservoir, with an area of 260,000 hectares, and the Karpovskoye, Bereslavskoye, and Varvarovskoye reservoirs on the Volga-Don Canal were put in operation in 1952.

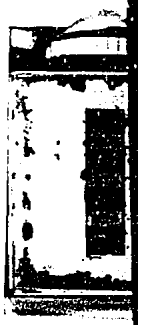
During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the Kuybyshevskoye, Gor'kovskoye, Kamskoye, and other large reservoirs are to be filled with water. The largest of these is to be the Kuybyshevskoye Reservoir, which will be more than 500 kilometers long and more than 40 kilometers wide and will have a total water surface area of up to 576,000 hectares. In the future, new reservoirs are to be constructed, including such large ones as the Stalingradskoye and Cheboksarskoye reservoirs, each of which is to have an area exceeding 300,000 hectares. After these reservoirs have been completed, the USSR is to lay out the largest network of artificial ponds in the world with a total area of 4,700,000 hectares, i.e., an area larger than that of the Azov Sea.

The Veselovskoye Reservoir on the Manych River in Rostovskaya Oblast was stocked chiefly with Don River commerical fish - carp, bream, pike perch, and sea roach. Counting Manych River fish - local carp, pike, lake perch, rudd, ide, bullhead, silver crucian, tench, and others, more than 27 species and subspecies belonging to 9 families were counted in the Veselovskoye Reservoir during its formation. Favorable natural conditions, such as a long vegetation period, good climatic conditions, and a rich feed base, were responsible for the high productivity rate of the Veselovskoye Reservoir.

From 1936 through 1939, the average yearly fish catch per hectare of reservoir area amounted to 113.6 kilograms, with maximum catches in 1936 and 1939 of 164.9 and 153.3 kilograms, respectively (according to data of I. Ya. Syrovatskiy). Productivity of the Veselovskoye Reservoir since its formation has tripled that of the Azov Sea, which is one of the most productive seas in the world. During this 5-year period, the usual Veselovskoye Reservoir fish catch consisted of 41.8 percent carp, 16.3 percent bream, and 9.2 percent pike perch. Catches of carp, bream, pike perch, and sea roach in the Veselovskoye Reservoir increased more than five times during this period.

During World War II, the Veselovskoye Reservoir was blasted by the Germans, and fish reserves of such valuable types as pike perch and bream were depleted. To restore reservoir fish reserves, 9,339 brood pike, 8,566 brood bream, and 510 brood pike perch were liberated in the reservoir in 1947. Later on, brood fish were replenished with 12,000 more carp specimens.

Fish of 29 species, including the sparling and White Lake "ryapushka" /small fish of whitefish family/, are found in the Rybinskoye Reservoir in Yaroslavskaya Oblast. Eleven species, including the sterlet and "podust" (genus Chondrostoma: family Cyprinidae), which had previously been seen only in the upper Volga Basin, are often found in the Rybinskoye Reservoir. The roach, "gustera" (blicca bjoerkna), and lake perch are most abundant in the reservoir and comprise 80 percent of the catches.



A great deal of attention has been devoted to stocking the Tsimlyanskoye Reservoir in the Rostovskaya Oblast. In 1951, 50,000 brood carp and bream were liberated in the reservoir. In the fall of 1952, 122,000 brood fish, including 99,000 bream, 20,300 carp, and 2,700 pike perch, were brought in from the lower Don River. In 1953, 100,000 more brood fish of the large net-fish type are to be delivered to the Tsimlyanskoye Reservoir. During the year, a spawning and rearing establishment is to be constructed. This enterprise is to have an area of 900 hectares and is to rear 27 million bream and carp fry annually.(21)

In 1952, 70,000 Amur carp yearlings obtained from pond fisheries of Novgorodskaya Oblast were liberated in Vyrtsyarv Lake in the Estonian SSR. During the first half of 1953, 3 million fertilized Ladoga ripus roe were delivered to the Estonian SSR from the Volkhov Fish-Breeding Plant in Leningradskaya Oblast. The Yaksinskiy Fish-Breeding Plant in the Estonian SSR immediately placed the roe in special devices for a pre-incubation period.

For a long time, it was thought that ripus could live and develop normally only in deep-water lakes in which whitefish are found. However, experiments conducted in Ural lakes proved that the Ladoga ripus could be acclimatized even in Estonian lakes in which bream are found. The ripus yearling usually weighs up to 90 grams and by the third year, as much as 800 grams. The average commercial weight is 300 grams. These experiments showed that in a short time and with little expense, industrial reserves of Ladoga ripus could be created quickly in inland waters of Estonian SSR.(22)

As of 7 February 1953, the fish pond enterprise of the Estonian SSR Inland Water Trust in Tallin was not fulfilling its assignments. The function of the enterprise is to breed commercially valuable fish for the stocking of republic inland waters. To perform this function efficiently, all ponds of the enterprise must be kept clean. At the height of the 1952 cleaning operations, Korinfskiy, director of the enterprise, went on leave. As a result, the cleaning of the ponds was not completed, and nearly 70,000 trout fry perished.(6)

The formation of the Tsimlyanskoye, Kuybyshevskoye, Stalingradskoye, Kakhovskoye, and other reservoirs has opened up a whole new field for fish breeding. Ichthyologists are now faced with the complicated problem of stocking these fresh-water seas with commercially valuable fish.

The Saratov Department of VNIRO (All-Union Scientific-Research Institute of Pelagic Fishing and Oceanography) has obtained interesting results concerning this problem. A group of scientists under the leadership of N. I. Nikolyukin, Doctor of Biological Sciences, and I. B. Bogatova, Candidate of Biological Sciences, has developed two new commercially valuable sturgeon hybrids.

Fish of the Caspian and Azov seas, the white sturgeon, sturgeon, and "sevryuga" (asipenser stellatus), ascend the Volga, Don, and Kura rivers for spawning and then return to the sea. To keep them in fresh water, it was necessary to convert these sea fish into fresh-water fish. The sturgeon-sterlet hybrid which the scientists obtained as a result of this conversion retains the outer appearance of the sturgeon and its usual weight of 10 to 15 kilograms. The new fish like the sterlet lives in fresh water, but grows three times as fast as the ordinary sterlet. The meat of the hybrid is outstanding in taste and quality. As of 19 March 1953, hybrid yearlings were being reared in ponds of the Osenka Fishing Kolkhoz near Moscow and at the Teplovka Fishing Kolkhoz in Saratovskaya Oblast.

This same group of scientists has also succeeded in crossing the sterlet with the white sturgeon, the hybrid of which develops even faster than the sturgeon-sterlet. The new reservoirs are to be stocked with the white sturgeon-sterlet. By the end of spring 1953, one million of the new hybrid roe are to have been delivered by plane to the Tsimlyanskoye Reservoir. The fry of these roe are to be reared in special net boxes and liberated in the Tsimlyanskoye Reservoir.(23)

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